Mobile phone users

†2574. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone users in the rural and urban areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of users likely to be increased during the current financial year; and

(c) the reasons for increase in the number of mobile phone users and decrease in the demand of basic (Landline) telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has been divided into 4 Metro City Service Areas and 19 Telecom Circle Service Areas (total 23 service areas). A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of service areas and not to a particular city/town/ village in the service area. As such the Service Areas cannot be categorized into rural and urban areas. For providing CMTS, Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle Service Areas cover Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal States. As intimated by Cellular Operators Association of India on behalf of the Cellular Operators, the total number of CMTS subscribers in these two Service Areas were 346490 and 575630 respectively as on 30.6.2003.

(b) No target has been fixed on the CMTS Licensees for providing CMTS connections. As seen from the growth rate in CMTS subscribers in the country during the last few years, a growth of 90-100% is expected during the current financial year.

(c) World-wide, increase in the number of new wireless/mobile phone users is higher than the number of new landline phone users. The same trend is visible in our country also. This is mainly because wireless/ mobile phones provide the facility to a subscriber to be contacted at all times and all places, where the coverage of service is available.

Loss of registered letters

2575. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of registered letters lost by the Postal Department during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount of compensation paid for the loss of registered letters;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the reasons for loss of such registered letters sent in India and abroad; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government to prevent the loss of registered articles by the Postal Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Number of registered letters lost during the last three years, year-wise is as under:—

Year	No. of registered letters lost
2000-2001	2047
2001-2002	2231
2002-2003	2362

(b) The amount of compensation paid for the loss of registered letters during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount of compensation paid
2000-2001	Rs. 4,32,285.31
2001-2002	Rs. 4,59,581.00
2002-2003	Rs. 3,94,470.00

(c) Yes, Sir. Detailed enquiry into all the cases of loss of registered letters both Inland and foreign was made and in most of the cases, the articles were found lost in transit. In some cases, the loss was due to theft of bags of Postman, highway robberies of mails and train accidents.

(d) Department has taken the following steps to prevent the loss of registered articles:-

(i) Suitable instructions have been issued to ensure proper safety of mails,

(ii) Preventive drives are undertaken by the inspecting staff besides the surprise visits made by the Checking Squads from time to time.

(iii) Departmental disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the erring officials. Sometimes, the loss sustained by the Department is also recovered from the defaulting officials.

(iv) Registration sorting work has been computerised for Inland Registered Letters in some of the mail offices.

(v) A project of bar coding of all accountable International items has been taken up to ensure smooth processing of such articles and to have a track and trace system based on IPS software.

(vi) Computerisation of Airmail Offices, Foreign Post Offices and Sub Foreign Post Offices has been undertaken.

2576. Withdrawn.

Development of Indian Language Technology

2577. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes undertaken by Government for the development of Indian Language Technology;

(b) the allocation made for the purpose to these programmes during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the outcome of the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has initiated Technology Development for Indian Language (TDIL) programme, which focuses on the following:-

Machine Translation Systems

Human Machine Interface Systems

Language Processing Tools

Localization

Standardization

Evaluation and Benchmarking